

1. Listing of the claims:

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method of representing records of data backup activity from one or more data backup products having different formats in a common format, the method comprising:

obtaining records of data backup activity from the one or more data backup products;
and

generating a canonical backup log containing backup job records corresponding to the records from the one or more data backup products, the canonical backup log including one or more of a date and time that a data backup operation took place, a proprietary name of the data backup client, a fully qualified host name of the data backup client, a number of bytes that were backed up, a number of files or objects that were backed up, a proprietary data backup level name or a default value, a canonical data backup level name or a default value, a description of where the information in the data backup job record was obtained, a number of seconds that elapsed during the data backup operation or a default value, a number of errors or a default value, a data and time the data backup will expire or default value, a logical target name, ~~and~~ a media label of the storage media to which the data backup was written, and a backup job field indicating the number of backup job records in the canonical backup log.